

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1767

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY REYJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETUC, ICFTU, SP, IS, EEC

SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. SUMMARY. THE FEB 27 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION WAS MARKED BY SERIOUS CLASHES OVER ETUC POLICY ON SPAIN AND OVER THE SELECTION OF A NEW ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY. THE QUESTION OF GRANTING OBSERVER STATUS AT THE UPCOMING ETUC CONGRESS TO ISRAEL'S HISTRADRUT  
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WAS ANOTHER SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY. THE COMMITTEE

ALSO DISCUSSED PROPOSALS FOR AN ETUC ACTION PROGRAM TO COMBAT UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. ETUC AND SPAIN: EXPECTATIONS THAT THE MOST RECENT ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WOULD BE A ROUTINE AFFAIR DEVOTED TO PRE-CONGRESS PLANNING AND PREPARATION WERE QUICKLY DISPELLED WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT ETUC ASSISTANT SECRETARY JEAN KULAKOWSKI HAD MET WITH SPANISH COMMUNIST WORKER COMMISSION LEADER MARCELINO CAMACHO ON THE OCCASION OF THE LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO BRUSSELS. FOCUS ON SPAIN WAS SHARPENED BY THE DISTRIBUTION AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF A "MANIFESTO OF TRADE UNION UNITY", A PUBLICATION OF THE SPANISH WORKER COMMISSIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN REPRODUCED ON ETUC LETTERHEAD. THEREFOLLOWED AN EXTENDED AND HEATED DEBATE ON SPAIN WHICH RESULTED IN AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISION TO JOIN WITH THE ICFTU AND WCL IN PRODUCING A DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNIONS IN SPAIN. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ALSO REAFFIRMED THAT THE ETUC WILL WORK ONLY WITH ITS AFFILIATES IN SPAIN (UGT AND STV) AND WILL DO SO IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE ICFTU.

3. ACCORDING TO ETUC AND ICFTU SECRETARIAT SOURCES, KULAKOWSKI EXPLAINED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THAT HIS MEETING WITH CAMACHO (DATE UNSPECIFIED) TOOK PLACE ONLY AFTER HE SOUGHT AND OBTAINED CONCURRENCE BY LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE FROM TOP UGT LEADERS. OUR ICFTU SOURCES CLAIM THAT THE LOOSENESS OF THIS PROCEDURE ILLUSTRATES THAT THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO RESTRUCTURE THE UGT, PARTICULARLY IN THE AREAS OF POLICY COORDINATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTRAL AUTHORITY. IF CENTRAL AUTHORITY HAD EXISTED, OUR CONTACTS ASSERT, KULAKOWSKI WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE GREEN LIGHT TO RECEIVE CAMACHO AND THE WORKER COMMISSION MANIFESTO WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GIVEN SUCH "UNFORTUNATE AND UNDUE ATTENTION." WHILE THERE WAS ONLY MINORITY SUPPORT IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR GIVING CONSIDERATION TO A POSSIBLE ROLE FOR THE WORKER COMMISSIONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ETUC-BACKED DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION FRONT IN SPAIN, THE FACT THAT IT WAS DISCUSSED AT ALL WAS DISTURBING TO ICFTU OFFICIALS AND ALSO TO GERMAN DGB AND FRENCH FO LEADERS.

4. CHOICE OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO RESOLVE A SERIOUS DISPUTE OVER THE SELECTION OF A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NEW ETUC ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL TO REPLACE PEER CARLSEN WHO IS CURRENTLY SERVING AS ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL AND HAS ALREADY ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION OF RETURNING TO THE DANISH LO AFTER THE ETUC CONGRESS IN LONDON, APRIL 22-24. UNTIL RECENTLY, IT HAD BEEN ASSUMED THAT KULAKOWSKI, ONE OF THREE ETUC ASSISTANT SECRETARIES, AND FORMER HEAD OF THE CHRISTIAN-ORIENTED AND NOW DEFUNCT EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION OF THE WCL, WOULD BE ELEVATED TO THE ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY JOB AT THE CONGRESS. HOWEVER, THERE

HAS BEEN EVIDENCE OF GROWING CONCERN, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE SCANDINAVIANS AND CERTAIN LEADERS OF THE GERMAN DGB, WITH THE PROSPECT OF HAVING KULAKOWSKI IN THE NUMBER TWO POSITION AT THE ETUC SECRETARIAT.

5. WHILE SOME OF THE OPPOSITION TO KULAKOWSKI CAN BE ATTRIBUTED IN PART TO HIS CHRISTIAN TRADE UNION ANTECEDENTS AND THE NOT COMPLETELY UNRELATED INSISTENCE BY THE SCANDINAVIANS THAT THE NUMBER TWO MAN SHOULD BE CHOSEN FROM AMONG EFTA RATHER THAN EC UNIONS, IT IS QUITE APPARENT THAT AN INCREASING NUMBER OF LEADERS, INCLUDING THE POWERFUL EUGENE LODERER OF THE GERMAN METALWORKERS UNION, SUSPECT THAT BOTH KULAKOWSKI AND HINTERSCHIED MAY BE TOO TRUSTING OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THAT THIS COULD CONCEIVABLY FACILITATE FRENCH CGT ADMISSION TO THE ETUC MUCH EARLIER THAN NOW ANTICIPATED. HOWEVER, MISSION SOURCES INDICATE THAT GERMAN DGB PRESIDENT VETTER PERSONALLY FAVORS KULAKOWSKI'S CANDIDACY. VETTER, WHO ALSO SERVES AS ETUC PRESIDENT, WAS REPORTEDLY INFLUENCED BY A RECENT LETTER FROM KULAKOWSKI IN WHICH THE LATTER ALLEGEDLY TOLD VETTER THAT THE NEW ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY SHOULD NOT BE CHOSEN ON THE BASIS OF HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH ANY POWER GROUP WITHIN THE ETUC BUT RATHER ON HIS PERSONAL MERITS AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE JOB. KULAKOWSKI ALSO REPORTEDLY TOLD VETTER THAT IF IT IS DECIDED TO CREATE A SECOND ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY POST, THAT HE, KULAKOWSKI, WILL IMMEDIATELY RESIGN FROM THE SECRETARIAT.

6. THE IDEA OF CREATING A SECOND ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY POST WAS REPORTEDLY ADVANCED BY THE NORIC UNIONS AND IS SUPPORTED BY LODERER. IT WAS CONCEIVED AS A COMPROMISE WHICH WOULD HAVE THE DUAL PURPOSE OF RESOLVING THE QUESTION OF PLACING A NON-EC UNION REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SECRETARIAT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING SOME COUNTERBALANCE TO THE HINTERSCHIED-KULAKOWSKI DUO. IN FACT, WE ARE TOLD THAT SVEN-ERIK STERNER OF SWEDEN WHO IS CURRENTLY AN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIAL OF THE WHITE COLLAR WORKERS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (FIET) IN GENEVA HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY RECRUITED AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE NEW POST.

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7. THE PROPOSAL TO CREATE A SECOND POSITION TOUCHED OFF A STORM OF CONTROVERSY AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WITH BELGIAN CHRISTIAN UNION LEADER, JOSEPH HOUTHUYS, EMOTIONALLY ATTACKING THE PROPONENTS OF THE SCHEME AND DEFENDING KULAKOWSKI. ACCORDING TO MISSION SOURCES WHO WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING, HOUTHUYS REMINDED HIS PEERS ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, THAT WHEN THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS ENTERED THE ETUC IN APRIL 1974 AND KULAKOWSKI WAS BYPASSED FOR THE NUMBER TWO JOB, THAT THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS DID NOT SEEK A COMPROMISE OR ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE KULAKOWSKI  
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ON THE ETUC BY USE OF "QUESTIONABLE TACTICS." (LAST WEEK WE WERE TOLD BY THE BRITISH LABOR ATTACHE THAT HINTERSCHIED EXPRESSED INDIGNATION WITH THE MOVE TO CREATE ANOTHER ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY POST AND REAFFIRMED HIS COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR KULAKOWSKI.) AFTER LODERER JOINED THE DEBATE IN FAVOR OF CREATING THE NEW POST, VETTER DESPITE HIS PREFERENCE FOR

KULAKOWSKI, SEEMED TO WAFFLE AND FINALLY RULED FROM THE CHAIR THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ETUC CONGRESS IN LONDON. IT IS HOPED THAT A COMPROMISE SOLUTION WILL BE FOUND DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD, BUT IT IS NOT CONSIDERED LIKELY.

8. CONFLICT OVER OBSERVER STATUS FOR HISTADRUT: STILL FLUSHED WITH THE HEAT OF DEBATE OVER SPAIN AND SELECTION OF THE NEW ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS PRESENTED WITH STILL ANOTHER CONTROVERSY WHEN VETTER READ A NOTE FROM ISRAEL'S HISTADRUT REQUESTING OBSERVER STATUS AT THE ETUC CONGRESS. THE REQUEST WAS QUICKLY MATCHED WITH A REQUEST FROM THE ITALIAN CGIL THAT THE FRENCH CGT, "A EUROPEAN TRADE UNION WHICH IS SEEKING ETUC MEMBERSHIP," AND THE YUGOSLAV TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BE GRANTED OBSERVER STATUS. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS UNABLE TO RESOLVE THIS HOTELY DISPUTED ISSUE. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, THE ISSUE WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE CLEARLY DECIDED AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT ALL OBSERVERS WHO SHOW UP IN LONDON COULD BE QUIETLY AND UNOFFICIALLY SEATED. SUPPORTERS OF HISTADRUT ARE PUT OUT WITH THE ISRAELIS FOR RAISING THE QUESTION OF OBSERVER STATUS IN THE FIRST PLACE. OTHERWISE, THEY TELL US, THE ISRAELIS WOULD HAVE BEEN ACCORDED ON-THE-SCENE OBSERVER STATUS IN KEEPING WITH PAST PRACTICE, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DONE WITHOUT FANFARE.

9. ETUC EMPLOYMENT POLICY: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EXAMINED THE CURRENT UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND PRODUCED A STATEMENT CALLING ON EC MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS TO 1) ACCEPT THAT THE RESTORATION OF FULL EMPLOYMENT BE THE PRIME AIM OF EC ECONOMIC POLICY; 2) FIX DEFINITE TARGET DATES FOR ACHIEVING THIS AIM; 3) STRENGTHEN SELECTIVE POLICIES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT EMPLOYMENT WITH MEASURES SUCH AS LIMITING OVERTIME, EXPANDING TRAINING FACILITIES, FACILITATING EARLY RETIREMENT AND INCREASING JOB SUBSIDIES "WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT THE ACTUAL LEVEL OF DEMAND IS INSUFFICIENT AND THAT SELECTIVE MEASURES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY THEMSELVES CANNOT INSURE A RETURN TO FULL EMPLOYMENT" AND 4) EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC SERVICES AND THE NEED FOR MEASURES TO INCREASE CONSUMER DEMANDS. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY ASSERTING THAT COMMUNITY EFFORTS TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT EMPLOYMENT MUST INVOLVE REAL AND NOT JUST NOMIAL WAGE INCREASES AND CALLS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO BE PARTICULARLY VIGILANT IN PREVENTING UNWARRANTED PRICE INCREASES.

10. AFTER REJECTING A RECOMMENDATION BY BRITISH TRANSPORT UNION LEADER JACK JONES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STANDARD 35-HOUR WEEK AS BEING IMPRACTICAL, THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE THEN DECIDED TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO FURTHER DEFINE ETUC EMPLOYMENT POLICY AND TO PREPARE A RESOLUTION ON THE SUBJECT TO BE ADOPTED AT THE

ETUC CONGRESS. IN THE MEANTIME, ETUC OFFICIALS WILL BE ADVANCING PROPOSALS ALREADY DEVELOPED, AS OUTLINED ABOVE, AT A MEETING WITH EC PRESIDENT ORTOLI ON MARCH 8. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED THAT THE ETUC SHOULD SEEK TO DISCUSS THE EMPLOYMENT CRISIS WITH THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 1 AND 2 IN LUXEMBOURG AND SHOULD BEGIN NOW TO PREPARE FOR THE EC TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT TENTATIVELY SET FOR JUNE.

11. COMMENT: IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE LATEST RUMBLINGS OF INTERNAL ETUC DIVISION. UNDER ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES IT COULD BE ASSUMED THAT THE PROBLEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED IN THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THUS PREVENTED FROM REACHING THE CONGRESS FLOOR. HOWEVER, THE INCREASINGLY VOCAL PRESENCE OF THE ITALIAN CGIL AND THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS HAS ADDED A NEW POLITICAL DIMENSION TO THE INTERNAL DISSENSION AND SOME ETUC OBSERVERS ARE CONVINCED THAT LODERER AND COMPANY NOW HAVE THEIR BACKS UP AND ARE PREPARING TO DRAW THE LINE IN LONDON REGARDLESS OF WHAT COURSE THE AMBIVALENT VETTER SHOULD FOLLOW. THE QUESTION OF FRENCH CGT ADMISSION TO THE ETUC WAS NOT DISCUSSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND IT WAS NOT EXPECTED TO BE RAISED AT THE ETUC CONGRESS BUT, GIVEN THE PRESENT LACK OF COHESION AT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE LEVEL, IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE CGT ISSUE IS RAISED. HINTON

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